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A. S. Horn

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The Marian Philatelist

PUBLISHED BY THE MARIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

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Chairman
Editor

Business Address:
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NOVEMBER 1, 1970

NEW ISSUES

UNITED STATES: (Class 2). Our 1970 Christmas issue, to be released November 5, 1970, gives a choice of religious or secular designs. **THE NATIVITY**, by Lorenzo Lotto (1480-1556), underscores the religious significance of Christmas, and reproduces a work in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

The 4 secular stamps depict antique toys and are intended to communicate the joy and happiness of Christmas.

There will be 1,750,000,000 stamps printed, half of **THE NATIVITY** and half of the Toys. There will be four cylinder numbers, the equivalent of plate numbers. On **THE NATIVITY**, the numbers will be in the upper selvage, the yellow above the first stamp at the left, the red across the second, the blue above the third, the black above the fourth, "Mail Early in the Day" slogan in black above the seventh, and the walking "Mr. Zip" in black above the 10th. The Toy panes are similar except that the numbers and markings are at the side, with the yellow number adjacent to the top row of stamps, and the standing "Mr. Zip" is used. We supply this information for collectors interested in plate blocks.

Stamps will also be precancelled in order to speed Christmas mail. Precancels will be available in the New England States and in 68 cities throughout the U.S., however, the city names were not given. Also, the city name will not be overprinted on the stamps, as was done last year. **THE NATIVITY** precancel will have two horizontal bars and The Toy stamps will have wavy lines, and in both cases the lines are interrupted so they do not extend over the major stamp design.

We have arranged to obtain first day covers; the price is 30 cents each. The National Gallery was caught in short supply of view cards of the painting, however, they hope to receive a supply in time for the first day of issue. If they do, we will have a supply of maximum cards, price is 40 cents each. Orders should be sent to W.J.Hoffman, 424 W. Crystal View Ave., Orange, California 92665.



THE NATIVITY is a wood painting, 18-1/8 x 14-1/8 inches, in the Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. The work is signed and dated.

Lotto has painted an inspiring yet different **NATIVITY**. Mary and Joseph kneel in adoration of

the Infant lying in a wicker basket placed outside the manger. Most unusual in a "Nativity" painting is the crucifix seen at top left in the complete painting, but on the stamp only Christ's wrist and hand on the right beam of the cross are faintly visible. What is more unusual, is the mouse trap in the lower right corner, upon which Lotto signed his name and the date he painted the picture.

Lotto was an Italian painter born in Venice. He was a pupil of Alvise Vivarini. His early works (1500-08), however, show the influence of Bellini and Massina. **THE NATIVITY** shows the influence of Correggio, and was painted after he returned from his travels to Venice and Bergamo (1513-25). He died in a monastery at Loreto

ANTIGUA: A 4-stamp Christmas issue to be released October 15, 1970. Designs reproduce woodcuts by Albrecht Durer in the British Museum.

3¢, 35¢ (Class 2) - **THE NATIVITY** from "The Small Passion." Durer forgot to reverse his monogram on this work so it appears from back to front.

10¢, 50¢ (Class 2) - **ADORATION OF THE MAGI** produced by Durer about 1511; a contemporary of "The Small Passion."

Stamps not available as we went to press.

AUSTRALIA: (Class 2). A 6¢ Christmas stamp issued October 14. Design reproduces a NATIVITY painting by Melbourne art student William Beasley. The work suggests a Medieval painting, however, it is an original modern work, and the artist used a black texture over the color areas to produce this antique oil painting effect. The Australian Post Office announced there will be no Christmas aerogramme issued this year.

AUSTRIA: (Class 2). Date of issue not known but the 2 schilling Austrian Christmas stamp will have as its design a NATIVITY, a small Christmas Crib carved by the Benedictine lay-brother Marian Rittinger who before his entry into the order was called Jacob. He was born in Klagenfurt in 1652 and died in 1712. He joined the Benedictines at Garsten in 1683. The crib is in the village church of Garsten.

BELGIUM: (Class 1). The Christmas stamp will depict THE MADONNA WITH THE GRAPE by Jan Gossaert (called Mabuse) (c1478-1533), Flemish painter. Original in the Dahlem Museum, Berlin. Date of issue not known as we went to press.

CAYMAN ISLANDS: A 6-stamp Christmas issue released October 5, 1970. The 1, 10 and 20¢ values depict a stylized NATIVITY superimposed on a world globe.



CHILE: (Class 1.5). A 2-stamp set issued July 28, 1970; 40 escudo for regular mail and 1 escudo for airmail, the first in green and white and the latter in blue and white. Design depicts OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, PATRONESS OF CHILE. The issue calls attention to the O'Higgins National Votive Temple at Maipu wherein the

image is enshrined, and the "1818" seen on the design refers to the year Our Lady of Mount Carmel was named as the Patroness of Chile. The National Votive Shrine at Maipu, with a miniature image of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, is seen on three stamps of Chile issued July 11, 1961, Scott 333, C219, C219a

CHRISTMAS ISLAND: A 2-stamp Christmas set to be issued October 26, 1970. Although Christmas Island has issued Christmas stamps for many years, this is the first time that the

Madonna will appear on the stamps.

3¢ (Class 1) - THE ANSIDEI MADONNA by Raphael (1483-1520). The Enthroned Madonna and Child are seen between St. John the Baptist and St. Nicholas of Bari. It is from the Ansidei Altarpiece, and is a wood panel 85 x 58.5 inches, painted for the Ansidei family; in 1506 placed in their chapel in San Fiorenzo dei Servi at Perugia. It is believed that Raphael began this work in 1504 and completed it in 1506. Original in the National Gallery, London, being purchased in 1885.

5¢ (Class 1) - MADONNA AND CHILD by Paolo Morando (1486-1522). Painting shows the Divine Child presenting fruit to St. John the Baptist. We have a reproduction of this work in our reference library which states the original is in the National Gallery, London.



IRELAND: (Class 1). The second contemporary art stamp was issued September 1, 1970. Design depicts the MADONNA OF EIRE by Mainie Jellett. Original in the private collection of Miss Sybil Kirkpatrick. This is quite modern and impressionist; the Madonna is difficult to locate. Dates on Miss Jellett differ; one source gives them as 1896-

1943 while another states she was born in Dublin in 1897 and died in January of 1944. She was a friend of Evie Hone, and both were attracted to the Cubist movement in the 1920s. They went to Paris together and studied with Albert Gleizes. Both held their first exhibitions in Dublin in 1924 and were disappointed to find their work severely criticized. Miss Jellett founded her own art school and through it exercised considerable influence on modern Irish art. The stamp was printed on letter "e" watermarked paper and was designed by Peter Wildbur.

MALTA: Malta will issue a 3-stamp Christmas set on November 7, 1970, designed by Chev. E. V. Cremona, and printed on Maltese cross watermarked paper. From available data, the Virgin will appear on only one stamp.

10/2d (Class 2) - Appears to be a NATIVITY.

MEXICO: (Class 3m). Augustin Coronado forwarded a first day cover of a stamp issued October 12, 1970, commemorating the Fourth Centenary of the founding of the city of Celaya. It was received too late to be illustrated. The 40 cts value stamp shows the coat-of-arms of the City of Celaya, founded

in 1570 and given the title "City of Our Lady of The Conception of Zalaya." "Zalaya" is a corruption of the Basque word "zelaya," and means "level ground," which is applicable to the terrain of the area. In the coat-of-arms, above the tree in the center, is an image of THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

MONTSERRAT: A 4-stamp Christmas scheduled for release September 21, 1970, however, stamps not received as we went to press.

5¢, 20¢ (Class 1) - MADONNA AND CHILD after Albrecht Durer (1471-1528), detail. Design on the stamp is a copy by an unknown German artist of an uncompleted painting by Durer.

15¢, \$1 (Class 2) - ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS, detail, by Il Domenichino (Domenico Zampiere) (1581-1641).

Locations of originals not known at present.



NEW ZEALAND:

A 3-stamp set issued October 1, 1970 for Christmas.

2-1/2¢ (Class 1) - VIRGIN IN ADORATION by Correggio (1494-1534). Original

in the Uffizi, Florence. Also seen on a 1968 Paraguay issue (see page 8, January 1969); on Burundi 1968 Christmas issue (see page 29, March 1969); on Ras al Khaima issue for Christmas 1968 (see page 17, March 1, 1969).

3¢ (Class 2) - THE HOLY FAMILY in stained glass window in the First Presbyterian Church at Invercargill.

The 3rd stamp shows tower of Sockburn Roman Catholic Church.



NIUE: (Class 1)

A 2-1/2¢ value Christmas stamp issued October 1, 1970, depicting VIRGIN IN ADORATION by Correggio. Same as for New Zealand.

TOKELAU ISLANDS: (Class 1). A 2¢ Christmas stamp issued October 1, 1970, depicting VIRGIN IN ADORATION by Correggio. Same as Niue and New Zealand.

ST. LUCIA: A 4-stamp set to be issued November 16, 1970 for Christmas. Same design on all four values.

5,10,25,40¢ (CLASS 1) - MADONNA WITH THE LILIES by Luca della Robbia (1400?-1482). Location of original unknown.

ST. VINCENT: A 4-stamp Christmas set due for release November 23, 1970. This is the first time the Madonna will appear on Christmas stamps.

8¢, 35¢ (Class 1) - MADONNA AND CHILD by Giovanni Bellini (c1430-1516). This seems to be the reverse of the design seen on the 5¢ and 15¢ stamps in the 1969 issues for Christmas by British Honduras; see page 65 of the November 1, 1969 issue. If it is, the original is in the National Gallery, London.

25¢, 50¢ (Class 2) - ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS by Louis Le Nain (1593-1648). Original in London National Gallery. Same design seen on the 1s6p stamp in the 1967 Christmas stamp of Great Britain, Scott 524, and on the 11¢ value in the 1969 Christmas stamp of the Bahamas, Scott 294. Article on the Great Britain stamp on page 8 of the January 1, 1968 issue.



SPAIN: (Class 8). A 6-stamp tourism set released July 23, 1970. The 1,50 ptas depicts the CHURCH OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION at Lequeito, 71 kilometers from Guernica. No additional data available at present.

VENEZUELA: A 5-stamp set, plus imperf sheet, issued September 1, 1970. Four of the stamps depicts VIRGENS OF VENEZUELA and the fifth shows the Archiepiscopal Cross from the Cathedral of Caracas. Illustrations with article on pages 60-61.

0,40 (Class 1) - OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY venerated in the city of "El Valle del Es-piritu Santo" on the Isle of Margarita, in Nueva Esparta State. Sculpture dating to the end of 16th century or beginning of the 17th.

0,60 (Class 1) - OUR LADY OF BELEN OF SAN MATEO, in the state of Araquai. Bronze image found in right nave of the Church of San Mateo, and since its apparition on November 26, 1709 has had the title "Our Lady of Belen" (Bethlehem). Is connected with the Liberator Simon Bolivar and the history of the country.

0,90 (Class 1) - OUR LADY OF CHIQUINQUIRA

OF MARACAIBO. Painting on wood, enshrined in church of the same name.

1,00 (Class 1) - OUR LADY OF SUCCOUR OF VALENCIA, in state of Carabobo. Image enshrined in Cathedral of Valencia, and dates to 17th century.

Imperf numbered sheet, 0,75 value, depicts image of OUR LADY OF BELEN OF SAN MATEO, which is seen on the 0,60 value stamp.

NEW LISTING

GREECE: (Class 8m). Father Jean Leury of Montreal has called our attention to an oversight in not listing Scott 817, 4.50d value, issued March 6, 1965. Design depicts El Greco's painting "View of Toledo." The steeple of the Cathedral of The Assumption at Toledo is seen in the design. Also reproduced on the 5¢ value in set issued by Liberia on November 18, 1969, Scott 503.

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

CHRISTMAS STAMPS: Many stamps will be issued between now and Christmas. Some countries have not as yet released the information on the design and date of issue, therefore we do not list them. They will be included in the January 1, 1971 issue.

PHILIPPINES: Mrs. Teofila Garcia of Manila has informed us that in May 1971 a stamp will be issued commemorating the Fourth Centenary of the finding of the image of OUR LADY OF GUIDANCE.

SPAIN: The Monastery set due for release on November 12, 1970, and will honor the MONASTERY OF ST. MARY OF RIPOLL (Gerona). First church on the site dedicated in 888.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CANADA: The 5¢ value in the 1970 Christmas issues is said to depict a NATIVITY. Mr. Douglass White, of Aylmer, contacted the Canadian Postal Administration to ascertain if the figure was a MADONNA. He received the following reply: "The stamp is indeed a Nativity Scene. Exactly whose picture, whether the Virgin or Child, appears is best determined by the viewer. A Nativity Scene traditionally depicts both figures but the child who drew this design must be allowed artistic liberty as she is but 8 years old." Our consensus at present is to wait and see. If the figure is printed in light blue, we could take it for a Madonna. Perhaps additional details will be supplied by the Cana-

dian Press or the little girl herself.

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MARIAN POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

BELGIUM #78 (page 48, September 1, 1970.) Design is not Marian, however, the word "Madonna" appears in the text.

BELGIUM #79 (page 48, September 1, 1970.) Correction of data: "Braine-le-Comte (Hainaut), April 25, 1970. IMAGE OF THE MADONNA FROM WALOON TOWN OF BRAINE-LE-COMTE, NOW HAINAUT. (Corrections from Rev. J. Volkaerts).

AUSTRALIA:

1. Melbourne, October 8-9, 1966. CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION, GNIEZNO, POLAND. "POLPHIL 66-Melbourne, Australia-Polish Millennium 966-1966." (Copy for illustration supplied by Bohdan Kaweck, New York City).

BELGIUM:

83. Heigne/Jumet, June 6, 1970. CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF HEIGNE. "Heigne S/Jumet-Chapel of 13th century-The July March." The image of the Virgin carried in the Military Procession enshrined in this chapel.

84. Scherpenheuvel, August 28, 1970. OUR LADY OF SCHERPENHEUVEL (French: Montaignu) (sharp hill). A very popular pilgrimage place in Flanders.

BRAZIL:

57. Brasilia, May 27, 1970. CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF APARECIDA. "Sanctuary of Cathedral of Brasilia, 27-31 May, 1970." First day cancel on stamp issued for VIII National Eucharistic Congress held at Brasilia.

SPAIN:

June 25 Leon, June 25, 1970. VIRGIN BLANCA. 1970 "Philatelic Exposition, Leon, 25 June 1970."

VENEZUELA:

5. Caracas, September 1, 1970. OUR LADY OF SUCCOUR OF VALENCIA. "Religious Images - Day of Issue 1 September 1970 - Venezuela Posts." First day cancel on Virgins of Venezuela issue.



Australia #1



Belgium #84



Belgium #83

Spain June 25, 1970

DIA DE EMISION

REPUBLICA DE VENEZUELA

Ministerio de Hacienda - Direccion de la Renta Interna



Bs. 0.75



Nr039305

Venezuela #5

IMAGENES RELIGIOSAS



Brazil #57

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CHILE: OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, PATRONESS - Issued July 28, 1970

A 2-stamp set was issued July 27, 1970 calling attention to the O'Higgins National Votive Temple at Maipu. See illustration on page 56. The design on both stamps depicts OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL which is enshrined in the National Temple. The Virgin is in a standing position, holding the Child on her left arm, and the Carmel Scapular in her right hand.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL was declared to be the Patroness of Chile in the Cathedral of Santiago on March 14, 1818, by the Supreme Director O'Higgins. A votive church was also promised should his army be victorious. Victory was obtained on May 5, 1818 at Maipu. This promise and the victory is represented by the wording seen at the bottom of the stamp. Not long after the victory the temple's cornerstone was laid, however, the building was not completed until 1892, at which time the statue of OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL was solemnly brought into the church.

A new votive church was erected in 1944, and in a niche above the principal portal is a huge statue of OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL. The church is seen on stamps issued by Chile on April 13, 1961, Scott 339, C219 and C219a. The details of the Votive Temple at Maipu are reported in Vol. 1, No. 2, issued October 1962. We are out of this issue, and perhaps at some future time will be able to issue a reprint.

The image was crowned on December 19, 1926. Pius XI issued the Papal Decree for its crowning. A Solemn Pontifical Mass was celebrated at ten altars at five o'clock in the afternoon in Causino Park; following the Mass the crowns were placed on the heads of both Virgin and Child, although the stamp does not show the Child with a crown.

In Chile there is not a more popular devotion than that to OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, for through her intercession O'Higgins obtained victory for the country's independence at the battle of Maipu.

VENEZUELA: VIRGINS OF VENEZUELA - Issued September 1, 1970



OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY: The 40¢ value stamp depicts an image of Our Lady venerated in the Sanctuary of the same name in the city of "El Valle del Espiritu Santo" on the Island of Margarita, state of Nueva Esparta. The image is of antique sculpture, measuring a meter in height (39.37 ins.) with a perfect countenance, sweet expression and hands joined in prayer. It takes its name from the city where the Sanctuary, erected in 1895, is located. The cult of the "Virgen del Valle" extends all over the Island and to the Continent, and its Sanctuary attracts numerous pilgrims.

The precise date of the origin of the image is not known, but it does date to the end of the 16th century and the beginning of the 17th. Legend states it was found by chance in the circle of the Piache which dominated the hamlet; however, a more reliable tradition states that the image was found on the shore not far from the city of Valle by some Indians who carried it on their shoulders to the settlement.

The image was canonically crowned, obtaining this privilege through the efforts of the Bishop of Guyana, Mons. Antonio Duran, by a mandate dated August 15, 1910. The crowning was celebrated on September 8, 1911.

Not content with this, the Ill. Sixto Sosa, the successor to Mons. Duran, asked the Sacred Congregation of Rites to name the VIRGEN DEL VALLE as the principal Patroness of the Diocese with all ensuing honors and prerogatives. This request was granted, and on April 27, 1921, following the Pontifical Mass, the image was carried in procession to the Plaza Narino and there was read the Decree proclaiming "Our Lady del Valle as the Patroness of the Bishop of Guyana and his Diocese."

OUR LADY OF BELEN OF SAN MATEO: The 60¢ value reproduces a bronze image, 3 inches high, having the title of OUR LADY OF BELEN (BETHELEHEM) OF SAN MATEO. The image is enshrined on a silver tabernacle in the right nave of the Church of San Mateo, state of Arauca.



Since its appearance on November 26, 1709 it has been known by this title but no records exist which tell why it was so named. It is supposed that the name stems from the circumstances of its appearance on the day before the Feast of Our Lady of Belen in Sarria, Spain, according to the Marian calendar published in Lerida.

The image has a connection with the history of the country. On March 25, 1814, Boves besieged San Mateo to dislodge Bolivar from his position. Historical records state that Bolivar took the image in his hands and raised it towards the place of combat, invoking the aid of the Virgin. This gesture is said to have so inspired the heroic Antonio Ricaurte of Granada, fighting with Bolivar, that he armed himself with a firebrand and set fire to the gun powder, destroying the assailants but perishing with them.

OUR LADY OF CHIQUINQUIRA OF MARACAIBO: The 90¢ value presents OUR LADY OF CHIQUINQUIRA OF MARACAIBO enshrined in the Minor Basilica of the same name. In 1749 a woman found a white plank of wood while doing her laundry on the shores of the lake. She took it home thinking she could use it as a lid for a water jar. Later she saw signs on the plank which indicated that it had been a religious picture, and so placed it in one of the rooms of her house. On November 18, 1749, while grinding cacao, some surprising happenings took place around the picture, and after seeing them a second and a third time she went closer to investigate the cause of these unusual happenings, and discovered that the plank was lit up and on it appeared a perfect image of OUR LADY OF CHIQUINQUIRA. Additional details on the events following this miraculous appearance are contained in an article on page 27 of the March 1, 1968 issue.



The image is canonically crowned, however, the crowning took place 26 years after the Decree was issued. Pope Benedict XV issued the Decree for the crowning on July 16, 1917, but the ceremonial crowning did not take place until November 18, 1942.



OUR LADY OF SUCCOUR OF VALENCIA: The 1,00 value depicts an image of OUR LADY OF SUCCOUR (HELP) OF VALENCIA. It is a sculpture enshrined in the Cathedral of Valencia. The city was elevated to a Bishopric on October 12, 1921.

The image is really that of "Our Lady of Sorrows" or "Our Lady of Mercy." It has the advocacy of "Our Lady of Sorrows," but peculiarly has at its feet a silver half moon. It came to Valencia through an error in shipping. In the second half of the 16th century a caballero of Valencia ordered a statue of "Our Lady of Succour" from Spain so that he might donate it to the Parochial church of the city. When it arrived he saw that it was not what he had ordered, but was a representation of "Our Lady of Sorrows." Then word came from Peru stating that an error in shipment had been made with the result that the image sent to Valencia was intended for Peru, and that the one sent to Peru was intended for Valencia. A request was made for an exchange of the statues. The inhabitants of Valencia were satisfied with the image they received, and believed that they had been touched by Divine Providence which intended them to have the statue of "Our Lady of Succour," and would not consent to an exchange.

The image was canonically crowned in 1910, and on this occasion the first Marian Congress in Venezuela was held.

OUR LADY OF BELEN OF SAN MATEO is seen on the imperf numbered sheet, measuring 10x6mm. See illustration of sheet on first day cover with Madonna cancel on page 59, listed as Venezuela #5.

As a point of interest we supply the following information on the Archbishopal Cross seen on the 0,35 value stamp. This is the cross of Archbishop Silvestre Guevara y Lira who was responsible for the execution of diverse alterations in the facade of the Cathedral of



Caracas. One of these, completed on August 11, 1867, was the installation of his Episcopal Cross above the facade of the Cathedral. A century later, on June 29, 1967, a violent earthquake struck Caracas, causing the cross to fall to the pavement below. It broke into many pieces yet the outline of the perfect cross was left imprinted in the pavement. This led to the belief that in some way a miracle had happened. The people began to make pilgrimages to the site, and resulted in the consecration of the block of cement thus imprinted with the symbol of Christianity. The cement block was removed to the Chapel of Christ in Los Jardines of El Valle, the parish church for foreigners in Caracas. The Cathedral was given a replica of the original cross by Cardinal Jose Humberto Quintero.

NEW MEMBERS

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CONGRATULATIONS TO: Florence Reeves for the Honorable Mention given her Exhibit of "Four Thousand Years of Christmas," and Harold E. Salley for receiving the COROS certificate for his exhibit "Religious Canceleds-Cachets-Stamps on F.D.C." - SESCO Awards.

BEST WISHES AND CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. and Mrs. Aloysius J. Paruzynski who will celebrate their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on November 1, 1970, with a Mass of Thanksgiving at the ten o'clock Mass at the Basilica of Saint Josaphat, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mr. Paruzynski was President of COROS from 1957 to 1961.

PART III - MADONNA ON POSTAL ISSUES OF THE POLISH PRISONERS OF WAR CAMP OFLAG VII-A AT MURNAU, 1942-45

By Henry F. Zebrowski

The fourth printing of the Murnau "Madonna" stamp was released on April 26, 1944; 144 copies were printed in shades of red on greyish smooth medium paper, without gum. These exist in perf and imperf condition, as they were made in sheetlets which were perforated and singly on imperforate pre-cut pieces of paper.

Acting upon the request of the Director of the Polish Red Cross, the camp postoffice provided the Red Cross with a number of stamps of all the camp issues, unused and cancelled, to be sold to stamp collectors outside of the camp. The proceeds were to be used to aid the needy families of the prisoners. The request was granted, and it resulted in still additional printings of the Murnau Camp "Madonna" stamps. Although these stamps are categorized as "reprints," they are an official postal issue and were used as such.

The first release of the "reprints" was on July 15, 1944, when 300 copies were printed in carmine color on yellowish smooth paper, without gum, perf and imperf.

The final printing of the "Madonna" stamps was terminated when, on August 10, 1944, 360 copies were issued, printed in red-brown on greyish smooth medium paper. These were also without gum, perf and imperf.

The total number of stamps with the "Madonna" design is set at 1,520; this of course includes all the color and paper varieties of the various printings, regular and reprints.

Regular printing in brown shades, 716 copies; regular printing in red shades, 144 copies; special or reprinted in red shades, 660 copies.

The Madonna design stamps were also printed in shades of blue in the amount up to 50 copies, or as little as 20 copies, as some of the Murnau experts estimate. It is quite difficult to know for certain due to the fact that in the Murnau Camp, stamps were issued in a rather chaotic way and not all of the issues, editions and printings were properly

recorded. It would be interesting to know just how many of the blue color Madonna stamps really exist.

Some experts consider these blue stamps as proper stamps issued for normal camp use. However, it is not known whether a postally used copy of the blue stamp does exist. This fact induces some of the experts to assume that these blue stamps were never put into circulation and probably should be considered as color proofs printed on the occasion of the printing of the Madonna postcards in identical colors - three shades of blue, ultramarine, violet-blue and dark-blue. No one will ever be able to catalog accurately the Murnau Madonna postcards as there are no official figures on this printing; an estimate is given at 250 copies. These postcards were printed on several different sizes of paper and different kinds of paper between April 4, 1943 and July 10, 1944.

Included in this printing of postcards with the blue impression was a very limited number of cards having on the reverse side a photograph of a drawing of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance, surrounded by a wreath of thorns, also a prayer printed in Polish. According to common belief, only about 20 of these photographic postcards were issued, with a rubber stamped cachet on the face side, an appropriate Easter design of a bunch of pussy willow branches, two bells, and an inscription "Alleluja." The remainder of these cards were printed without the illustration.

A special rubber stamp, Red Cross postmark, with Latin inscription "INTER ARMA CARITAS 1939-1943" in red was used in addition to the normal cancellation. This special postmark was a type of a letterhead or identification on the official mail originating at the camp, with destination of International Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland.

According to information received, the Murnau stamp dies have not been invalidated; they are stored in the Polish Postal Museum (Muzeum Poczty i Telekomunikacji) in Wroclaw, Poland.

There are numerous crude forgeries of the Murnau stamps; some were printed with acid treated zinc plates. They can be easily detected by visual examination of the design and/or the lettering, and also by comparing the color of ink and the type of paper that was used. The most outstanding characteristics of the Madonna forgeries are: The figures on both sides of the Madonna are larger - the base of the numeral "2" is slanted slightly upward instead of being on a horizontal plane. The ink and paper of the forgeries were never exactly duplicated to compare with the originals.

Experts comparing one forgery against other forgeries have come to the conclusion that there existed or still exist at least four different sources which produce these forgeries. Many stamp dealers are not stamp experts and are not aware of these fakes. Should anyone intend to add any of the Murnau stamps to their collection, it would be wise to have them examined first and proved genuine by an expert on Polish Prisoners of War stamps. These forgeries began to appear on the philatelic market in increasing numbers at about the middle of 1959 and are still prevalent to this day.

On July 10, 1944 the Murnau Postal Commission resolved to withdraw all stamps from circulation and sale to allow for a special printing of stamps to comply with the request of the Polish Red Cross. These stamps were placed on sale July 15, 1944, and the supply was quickly exhausted. A second printing was again offered for sale on August 10, 1944.

On April 28, 1945, the final meeting of the Postal Commission was held. The functions of the camp's postal service ceased on March 1, 1945. Some of the stamps were in circulation until April 29, 1945, the day on which the prisoners were liberated.

Although these stamps are not postage according to the applied norms of the Universal Postal Union, they are accepted as valid postage stamps by collectors all over the world.

(This article will be concluded in the January 1, 1971 issue with a listing of dates issued, color and paper descriptions, and numbers from the Polish Prisoners of War Specialized Catalogue for the Murnau POW Camp, Oflag VII-A issues of OUR LADY OF CZEStOCHO-WA.)

Madonna Stamps

LITHUANIA - DISPLACED PERSONS CAMP AT MONTGOMERY

Perforated - Mint - All 3 values	\$ 14.00
" 2 values	11.15
Imperforate - Mint - All 3 values	14.20
Perforate and Imperforate - Used - All 3 values	33.00
Imperforate - Ovpt. "Stade" - Mint - 3 values	21.70
S/S of 10.90 Perf. Gold Border - Mint	48.50
" " - Used	72.00
S/S of 10.90 Imperf. No Gold - Mint	48.50
" " - Used	76.00

These are listed in the Hoffman Catalogue.

We can also supply one or two scarce variations.

Later, we will list offerings of the Madonna Stamps of
Pleskau P.O.W. and Woldenberg P.O.W. Camps.

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Have you any empty spaces in your Madonna or Christmas Collections?

That's what we're here for.

MARSHALL H. WILLIAMS

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